

DEPARTMENT OF ORNAMENTAL
HORTICULTURE.

W. C. STEELE.

SWITZERLAND.

FLORIDA.

Dr. Nehrling has sent us a list of the plants in bloom at his place. Is he the only one who feels interested enough in this competition to try to keep up the Florida side? Probably few others could give so long a list as that which we print this week. But it might easily happen that you could add names of varieties that are not included in his list. Let us have the list at once.

We are sorry that the interest in the botany class died out so soon. Now would be the time to find unknown varieties of wild flowers and send them on to be named.

Our contributors, outside of this state have been very generous lately and have been furnishing us quite a number of valuable articles for this department. But what about our Florida contributors, have they entirely lost their interest in flowers and floriculture? We should be glad to hear from them.

Flower List from Gotha.

Editor Floral Department:

We have had a very fine and mild winter. Not even a slight white frost marred the foliage of the most tender plants. Such jewels from the tropics as *Alocasia Lowii*, *Phyllotoenium Lindenii*, *Anthurium regale*, *A. Scherzerianum*, *Philodendron spectabile* and in the open in my lath covered shed, many others have held their leaves. The following plants were in bloom on the 25th of February:

Crinum augustum,
C. amabile,
C. Asiaticum sinicum,
C. Moorei roseum,
C. longifolium album,
C. giganteum,
Justicia coccinea,
Magnolia Lennei,
M. Soulangeana,
Cuphea eminens,
Daedalacanthus nervosus,
Leonotus leonurus,
Lantanas (many),
Hibiscus rosea-Sinensis,
Brunfelsia confertiflora, very beautiful and fragrant, covered with flowers,
B. Lindeni,
Bignonia venusta,
B. crucigera,
B. crucigera,
Osmanthus Americana, (American olive),
Osmanthus fragrans, (*Olea fragrans* of the catalogues),
Prunus Carolinensis,
Gelsemium sempervirens, (single and double),
Xanthoxylum, (Prickly ash),
Oranges, (a few),
Sanchezia nobilis,
Michelia fuscata, K. (Banana Shrub, just beginning to flower),
Allamanda Williamsii,
Toxicophlaea spectabilis,
T. Thunbergia,
Camellia Japonica (about 40 varieties),
Vinca rosea,
Bletia hyacinthina,
Ipomoea bona-nox,
Cannas,
Thunbergia fragrans,
T. Laurifolia,
Roses, (many of the Noisette and Tea classes),
Rosa laevigata, Cherokee Rose,
Rosa Banksia,
Jasminum revolutum, and several others,
Petunias,
Phlox Drummondii,
Calliopsis,
Violets,
Zephyranthes Treatae,
Z. tubispatha.

Z. candida,
Solanum Rantonettii,
Myrica cerifera, (wax myrtle),
Juniperus Barbadensis (Floridace-dar),
Pinus palustris,
Andromeda nitida,
A. racemosa,
Raphiolepis Indica, a grand evergreen, just beginning to flower,
Acacia Farnesiana,
Cocos datil,
C. Bonneti,
C. Blumenavia,
C. Galaz (ripe fruit also),
C. Australis,
C. (?) a new rare species,
Phoenix Senegalensis,
Chamaerops hystrix, the European palm, (the flowers surround the stem like masses of flat, bright yellow sponges),
Cosmos sulphureus, Klondyke, (a few stray blossoms),
Cestrum nocturnum,
C. Parqui, covered with snowy-white berries),
Elaeagnus reflexa and *E. pungens* var. in full fruit,
Tuberose came into bloom in a neighboring garden.
The forests are full of flowers, particularly *Polygalas* and *Pinguiculas*,
H. Nehrling.

Spring Beauties.

Editor Floral Department:

I want to call the attention of all lovers of the beautiful, especially those who have the care of children and who know the value of early training in this line for them, to the beautiful "Dogwood" (*Cornus Florida*), it is now in full flower and lights up the landscape like a pile of fleecy clouds. It is found in the hammocks and can be marked while in bloom and transplanted in December. It will grow on any soil, with little or no care. Flowers about the size of a tea cup, white, with four petals.

Just now the pink Azalea is out, "Wild Honeysuckle," it is called, North and South. It grows in the same situations as the Dogwood and needs the same treatment. Will do better on moist land, but thrives satisfactorily on dry soil. The Azalea is very fragrant and so also is the Dogwood, and both should be planted in every door yard.

The Bignonia, that has the short trumpet, about 2, 1-2 or 3 inches, dark orange red, is a very valuable climber, is hardy, evergreen and almost a constant bloomer.

These are all in bloom now, so one can see for themselves the joy that may be theirs at small cost.

I want to say a word about plum trees, they are a perfect snow-bank, often by the last of February, and make such a bright, cheerful spot in the landscape, that I would suggest that you mark the best looking ones that you saw this spring, and determine to have the home grounds a place where souls may reach up and grow. There is an inspiration in beauty that we all need, to bring out the best that is in us. Environment is more than half in the development of character. Let us try to realize this fact in the making of the home, the town, the state. E. P. G.

My Dahlias.

Editor Floral Department:

Last season the conditions were eminently favorable for the growing and development of Dahlias. We had a rainy summer; indeed, light, warm rains prevailed through the spring, summer and fall.

After the middle of April the Dahlia tubers were brought from the cellar and placed in shallow boxes, which had two or three inches of soil on the bottom, the clumps of tubers are laid close together in the boxes and light soil thrown over them, merely enough to cover them. Not having boxes enough to hold all the tubers, a dozen or more clumps of them were thrown on the ground along the north side of the kitchen. They were not covered with either soil or leaves.

The tubers in the boxes soon sent up sprouts which grew with surprising quickness. By the middle of May we

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succeeded in having most of the sprouts set out in their allotted places. But, getting tired of setting out so many plants—doubtless a hundred—we sometimes set out whole clumps of tubers. However, previously we had set out a number of dry tubers, merely to see what the result would be. The clumps of tubers on the ground by the north side of the kitchen, we left undisturbed, exposed to the influence of whatever kind of weather there might happen to be.

We planted a row of the sprouted tubers in front of the shrubbery along the front fence. In a border-bed at the foot of the garden, we planted a double row of sprouts, twenty in all. The ground here slopes, and every time it rains, rich soil is carried thitherward. In a border in the yard a dozen sprouted tubers were set, there were a dozen varieties received in exchange. In every available place sprouted tubers were set; in rows, in groups, and many were isolated. But enough of this. Now for the results:

The Dahlias grew apace. They grew in wild luxuriance. After the middle of June, some of them came into bloom and thenceforth they all bloomed continually until frost, a heavy frost appeared after the first of November.

The Dahlias did not receive any care in the way of hoeing, and certainly not in the way of watering. They were not troubled by insects of any kind. The cut-worms, for some unknown reason, gave them a wide berth, not one was seen all summer.

Where necessary, tall, slender stakes were driven in the ground by the Dahlias, and the branches tied thereto. I always aimed to tie the branches so that the foliage would conceal the stakes, for, in my estimation, stakes detract from the beauty of the plants. In tying the branches, I always use wide, flat strings of some soft material,

preferably, calico, of a dark color, so as not to be conspicuous. Some of the Dahlias reclined on the shrubbery; others would lie prone on the grass, forming beds of beauty.

Whenever I attempt to describe the rich, luxuriant beauty of those Dahlias, language fails me. All that I can say of them seems tame, indeed; and yet, and yet, I feel impelled to write of them. I have but to close my eyes to see them all in their lavish display of rich, luxuriant coloring, in infinite variety of shades, and tones and semi-tones of shades—and in imagination I go from bed to bed, from border to border, from group to group, from isolated plant to isolated plant—every morning I went that round, always with a song of rejoicing in my heart; always with a little girl trailing after me. Through rain and through sunshine we went, and I would fill her arms with the splendid flowers, and she would go home rejoicing over her treasures and promising to come again in the evening.

In my collection of Dahlias were included Fancy, Cactus, Show and Pompon Dahlias, all, in my estimation, "Decorative," highly so, indeed. I recall just now a Dahlia, the Princess Judith, that was beautiful, superbly so. It grew by a tall post, isolated on the lawn. It was seven or eight feet high, and branched from the ground up to the top, the foliage forming a mantle of richest green, that in itself was beautiful. The flowers were large, measuring six inches across the base, and a few measuring seven inches. The petals were long, broad and irregularly formed, and irregularly crowded full to the center. The color was a rich, glowing, velvety crimson, flushed with a velvety black. The flowers were on long stems, sometimes two or three flowers on one stem, and buds with